



Town of Walpole

Rules & Regulations & Procedure for Construction of On-Site Septic Systems

Rules and Regulations of the Walpole Board of Health and Title 5 of the Massachusetts Environmental Code requires that no individual sewage disposal system shall be located, constructed or installed until a permit for its location, construction or installation shall have been issued by the Approving Authority.

Applications for Disposal Works Construction Permits are available in the Board of Health office. A fee is charged for the issuance of the Permit, payable at the time application is made.

In addition to the State Environmental Code, Title 5, which establishes minimum requirements for the disposal of sanitary sewage, the Town of Walpole shall require the following:

- 1) Disposal Works Installer's Permits shall be renewable annually. Initial applicants for a Disposal Works Installer's Permit shall submit two (2) references and pass a qualifying exam. A grade of 80% must be achieved in order for a permit to be issued. If not, you may retake the test after 10 working days have expired. All questions are related to Title 5 and the Town of Walpole's septic construction regulations.
- 2) Leaching area requirements must be increased by 50 percent for all new construction on-site septic systems. New construction includes renovations or additions to existing dwellings that may potentially result in an increased flow to a septic system.

- 3) Contact Health Department for applicable inspections before backfill of systems. These inspection could include but are not limited to excavation of soil absorption system, stone under tanks, septic gravel, installed system, water test on D-Box, and manholes to grade
- 4) All septic tanks shall be no closer than 100 feet from watercourses excluding currently built homes, and leaching fields shall be no closer than 150 feet from watercourses excluding currently built homes. Watercourses include any natural or man - made stream, pond, lake, wetland, costal wetland, swamp, or other body of water and shall include wet meadows, marshes, swamps, bogs, and areas where groundwater, flowing or standing surface water or ice provide a significant part of the supporting substrate for a plant community for a least five months of the year as stated in Title 5.
- 5) A certified as-built plan prepared by a registered professional engineer or a registered sanitarian is required on all new septic construction and all repairs requiring an engineered septic plan.
- 6) A professional engineer or a registered sanitarian shall certify on the as-built all requirements of 310 CMR 15.000 have been met, and that septic breakout will not occur.
- 7) Upon sale of unoccupied homes with septic systems or cesspools not used for 6 months or longer, an additional Title 5 septic inspection must be conducted 6 months to 1 year after occupancy to ensure that the system operates properly while occupied.
- 8) All newly installed septic tanks shall be two compartment tanks. If using an existing tank for a septic system repair requiring an engineered plan, the tank must be certified prior to submittal of the plan.
- 9) No 90 angles are allowed for pipes leading up to the distribution box unless a cleanout is provided.

- 10) Copies of invoices and/or delivery slips for the fill material to be used for any septic system installed in the Town of Walpole are to be submitted to the Board of Health prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance. The invoice/delivery slip must show company name, date, delivery address, amount delivered and specify that the materials meet Title 5 septic sand specifications. A copy of a sieve analysis for the material being used must be submitted to the Board of Health prior to it being placed on site. (Current within 30 day)
- 11) Scheduled percolation test cancelled with less than 48 hours notice will result in forfeiture of the application fee. A new application and fee must be submitted for a new appointment.
- 12) The Walpole Board of Health may vary the application of any provision of these regulations with respect to any particular case when, in the Board's opinion, the enforcement thereof would do manifest injustice and the applicant can show that a requested variance will not harm public health.

The above rules, regulations and procedure for septic construction permits were adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Health on May 18, 1972 and revised as listed below.

January 18, 1983

December 27, 1983

February 14, 1989

March 15, 1990

November 24, 1992

December 1, 1994

August 15, 1995

January 13, 1998

September 19, 2004